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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 27 November 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the Joint Declaration of the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Balkan and Regional Countries, held at Istanbul on 25 November 1992, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Hikmet Cetin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey (see annex).

The following countries were represented at the Conference: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania, Slovenia and Turkey. Italy attended the Conference as an observer. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina was unable to participate in the Conference, owing to physical difficulties in reaching Istanbul from Sarajevo.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 143, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mustafa AKSIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Joint Declaration adopted by the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Balkan and Regional Countries, held at Istanbul on 25 November 1992

The Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Balkan and Regional Countries,

Profoundly concerned about the internecine fighting in the former Yugoslavia which has been causing tragic loss of human life and material damage, and about consequences for the countries of the region, in particular Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, and of potential spillover effects of the use of force in Kosovo, Vojvodina, Sandzak and the Republic of Macedonia, with the risk of drawing the countries of the region into conflict,

Particularly worried about the extremely tense situation in Kosovo and conscious of the fact that further escalation of the tension is dangerous for peace and stability in the region,

Determined to assume their inherent responsibility in the region, based on the historical ties which link the countries of the region with each other for reasons of common geography, history and culture,

Recalling and reaffirming their commitment to all the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions,

Reaffirming their full support for the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia and in particular for the proposal by the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the Conference on the constitutional structure of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the context of their commitment to the principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, a/

Noting with grave concern the human drama and tragic events which having started in the northern part of the former Yugoslavia are now spreading to the south,

Noting in particular the report of the Special Rapporteur, appointed following the special session of the Commission on Human Rights to investigate the human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia, which makes clear that massive and systematic violations of human rights and grave breaches of international humanitarian law continue in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the Muslims overwhelmingly being the victims,

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a/ A/45/859, annex.

Fully conscious that delay, hesitation and errors in conveying the resolve of the international community against the ongoing violation of internationally acclaimed principles in the former Yugoslavia set an unfavourable and dangerous precedent for peace and stability in the Balkans and beyond,

1. Resolutely declares that any acquisition of territory by force and any practice of "ethnic cleansing" is unlawful and unacceptable, will not be permitted and will have to be reversed, and that all refugees must be enabled to return in peace to their former homes;

2. Calls upon all parties and others concerned to respect strictly the territorial integrity, independence, sovereignty and national identity of all the States of the former Yugoslavia;

3. Condemns refusals in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly by the Bosnian Serb paramilitary forces, to comply with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, demanding that they fulfil immediately their obligations;

4. Firmly believes that Sarajevo, as the symbol of Bosnia and Herzegovina's statehood, must be saved at all costs and the shock waves that its fall would send throughout the former Yugoslavia, to the Balkans, indeed to the whole of Europe, must be prevented, and requests the Foreign Ministers of countries participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to consider meeting in Sarajevo as soon as possible;

5. Opposes grave discrimination on ethnical or religious grounds, especially in the regions noted for their rich heritage of cultural, religious, ethnical and national multiplicity;

6. Demands all necessary steps to be taken jointly for the restoration and repair of the historical, religious and cultural heritage in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, which embodies the common values of the peoples of the world;

7. Calls upon the relevant international organizations to urgently establish militarily protected safe areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

8. Also calls upon the relevant international organizations to establish, effectively operate and protect a maximum possible number of corridors for the transport of humanitarian relief goods;

9. Urges the rapid deployment of United Nations observers on the borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with operative paragraph 16 of United Nations Security Council resolution 787 (1992) and further urges the United Nations Security Council to examine the possibility of deploying forces in Kosovo, Vojvodina and Sandzak, as well as in the Republic of Macedonia, to contain the extremely explosive situation reigning in these areas, taking into consideration the relevant decisions of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe;

10. Strongly urges all parties concerned to exercise the greatest moderation and restraint over Kosovo, and particularly federal authorities (Serbia-Montenegro) to use their influence to ensure continued involvement of Serbian authorities in the Geneva Conference-brokered talks on the situation in Kosovo; the Serbian authorities, as well as the Kosovan leadership to cooperate with the Conference; and all the sides to contain extremist elements under their control;

11. Warns that the spread of the conflict to other areas would lead to unforeseeable consequences and would have to be stopped by most resolute actions of the international community;

12. Calls upon the international community to review the necessity of the recognition of the Republic of Macedonia and the positive effects on peace and cooperation in the Balkans, including the membership of this republic in the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe;

13. Supports the convening of a special session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to discuss the report of its Special Rapporteur, Mr. Mazowiecki, and the initiative to determine those personally accountable for crimes against humanity;

14. Calls upon the international community to contribute to the promotion of independent and objective information in the former Yugoslavia and requests all parties concerned to cooperate with the United Nations, in particular with the United Nations Protection Force, in the intensification of their information activities;

15. Urges the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia to convene in December a ministerial meeting of the Conference in order to undertake the necessary steps to implement its statement of principles and enhance the effectiveness of the Conference, referring in this context to the recently made French proposal;

16. Calls for an early reactivation of Balkan cooperation revived in 1988 in Belgrade which has been interrupted upon the dissolution of the former Yugoslavia;

17. Decides to hold consultations, at the level of senior officials, open to all Balkan and neighbouring States to meet periodically, or when necessary, to review the developments related to the crisis in the former Yugoslavia, to coordinate approaches, to prepare recommendations to their respective Governments and to consider the best ways and means to assist the Geneva Conference, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations aimed at a peaceful and speedy resolution of the conflict;

18. Decides to communicate copies of the present Declaration to the United Nations, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Community.